

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

At the outset, applicant's counsel wishes to express his appreciation for the thorough examination of this application by Examiner Tompkins.

In the last Official Action (August 2, 2005), the Examiner indicated that claims 3-6 would be allowed if presented in complete and independent format. Accordingly, claims 2 and 3 have been canceled and the subject matter thereof incorporated into parent claim 1. Similarly, claims 4 and 5 have been amended to appear in complete and independent form by incorporating the subject matter of claims 1 and 2 therein, respectively. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from and further restrict its parent claim 4. Finally, new claims 9 and 10 dependent from their parent claim 4, and new claims 11 and 12 dependent from their parent claim 5 have been added to provide more adequate protection for applicant's contribution. As a consequence of the foregoing actions, claims 1 and 4-12 now are believed to stand allowed.

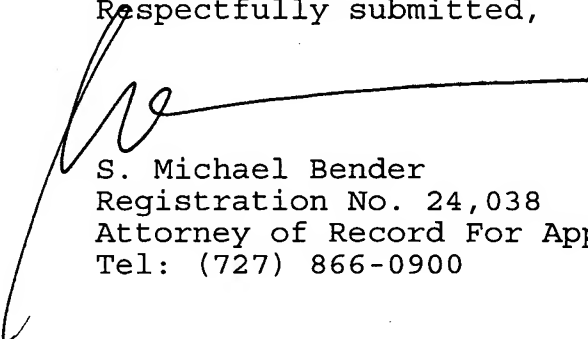
It is noted with due appreciation that the drawings have not been objected to by the Official Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152, and have been accepted by the Examiner.

All grounds of objection and rejection having been overcome by this Amendment, the application now is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance containing allowed claims 1 and 4-12, and such favorable action earnestly is solicited.

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The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues still present in the application and to expedite the prosecution of the application, should the Examiner believe such a telephone conference would be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

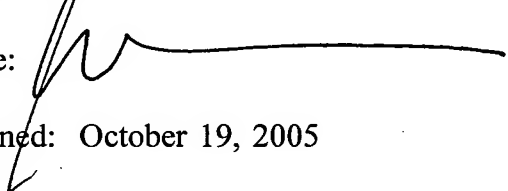


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **Amendment Under 37 CFR § 1.111** is being deposited on October 19, 2005 with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signature:



Date Signed: October 19, 2005